

# College of Public Health News

July 23, 2014

Georgia Southern University

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## Engagement in and Barriers to Accreditation

July 23, 2014



A collaborative study including Dr. Gulzar Shah examines *Public Health Agencies' Level of Engagement in and Perceived Barriers to PHAB National Voluntary Accreditation*. This study examines local health departments' (LHDs') and state health agencies' (SHAs') engagement, LHDs' perceived barriers, and factors associated with level of engagement in accreditation. The study design is observational, cross-sectional, and based on census design surveys of all state and local health departments. The most frequently reported reasons for LHDs not pursuing accreditation were the time/effort required for accreditation exceeding the benefits (72%), the fee being too high (54%), and the standards exceeding the capacity of their LHD (39%).

Accreditation is expected to provide pathways to accountability, consistency, and better fit between community needs and public health services. National strategies targeting rapid diffusion of accreditation among public health agencies should include elements that address the needs of LHDs with varying degrees of intent to pursue accreditation.

## Salud es Vida featured on NCI's Behavioral Research Program Grantee Profile

July 23, 2014



Dr. Luque's research interests are in community-based participatory research, cancer health disparities in minority and underserved communities, community-academic partnerships, and increasing access to cancer prevention and screening through community health worker programs. Dr. Luque has led research projects in the U.S. and Peru on cervical cancer screening education, and in the U.S. on prostate cancer education to increase informed decision making around screening decisions for African-American men. His community-engaged research on cervical cancer focuses on Hispanic/Latino immigrant populations. Dr. Luque has contributed to the literature on the influence of cultural beliefs and attitudes on people's decisions to engage in cancer prevention and screening.

Dr. Luque's study "Salud es Vida: Reducing Access Barriers to Cervical Cancer Screening among Underserved Hispanic Women" (R21 CA163159) was developed in partnership with a community agency, promotoras, and a transdisciplinary research team. In rural Georgia, there are numerous barriers to regular screening for Hispanic immigrant women from farmworker backgrounds, including shortage of providers, language difficulties, transportation challenges, and burdensome costs for uninsured patients. In order to disseminate information about access to cervical cancer screening in this population, Dr. Luque's research team trained promotoras to deliver a theoretically-based, small group intervention to increase screening among Hispanic immigrant women who are not up-to-date with screening. The research team is currently testing the efficacy of the intervention in a two-arm study.

# Leadership Scholarship

July 23, 2014



Ms. Alisha Ghosh, a Master of Healthcare Administration student at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University has been awarded the AHA Summit Leadership Scholarship by Institute of Diversity (IFD) and The American Hospital Association (AHA). She and 9 other MHA students interning from across the nation will have the opportunity to attend The AHA Annual Leadership Summit from July 19-22 in San Diego, CA. At the summit, interns will experience:

- Private, pre-conference dinner reception with Institute president and CEO, Fred Hobby and other guests such as the AHA president.
- Attend the Institute for Diversity board meeting and be recognized for their achievements.
- Attend the 2014 Asian Health Care Leaders Association (AHCLA) National Conference on July 19th in San Diego. The afternoon session will be Preventing and Reducing Readmissions, presented by Josh D. Luke, President, and The Readmission Prevention Group.
- Network with over 5,000 US hospital presidents and CEOs!
- Attend AHA Leadership Summit Keynote Sessions by Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense (2006-2011), Malcolm Gladwell, best-selling author and staff writer for The New Yorker and Peyton Manning, Super Bowl-Winning quarterback and five-time NFL MVP.
- Attend the closing night Gala Reception on board the deck of the USS Midway!
- Exploration of San Diego culture and restaurants!
- Sponsorship includes airline travel, hotel housing and registration for the conference. (Approximately, a \$2,000 value.)

Interns were selected by the IFD and AHA staff based upon academic excellence, leadership potential, professionalism, and a letter of recommendation from their Intern preceptors.